MARVEL COMICS
THE COSMIC AVENGER
QUASAR
INFINITY GAUNTLET CROSSOVER
IN HIS ALL NEW AND FINAL COSTUME
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DAVE HOOVER
50 YEARS
OF CAPTAIN AMERICA
1941 – 1991
TILL DEATH DO WE PART!

THE THREAT TO EXISTENCE THAT QUASAR WAS GROOMED TO COMBAT HAS AT LONG LAST BEEN VANQUISHED...
...BUT THE PROTECTOR OF THE UNIVERSE'S TRIUMPHANT MOOD WILL BE SHORT LIVED.
FOR EVEN AS HE FERRIES HIS COMPANIONS MOONDRAGON AND MAKKARI HOMEWARD, AN EQUALLY FORMIDABLE MENACE LOOMS ON THE HORIZON...
...ABOUT TO THROW DOWN HIS INFINITY GAUNTLET!
SO YOU MEAN WHILE I WAS PASSED OUT, YOU WENT AND DEFEATED MAELSTROM AND RAN OFF TO THE TAILOR'S TO GET NEW DUDS?
UH... SOMETHING LIKE THAT, MAK.
THE EIGHT BILLION YEAR FUNERAL

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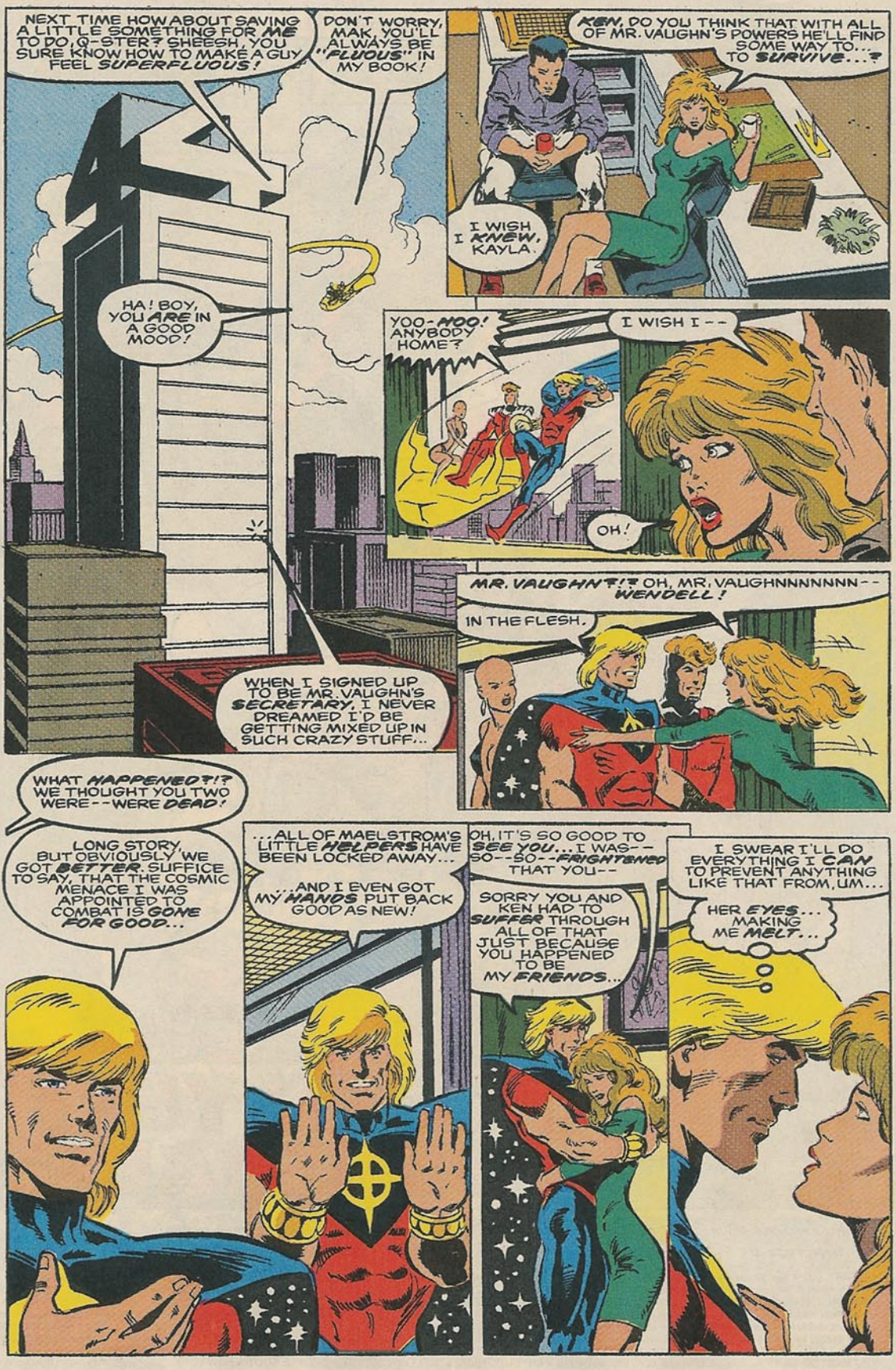
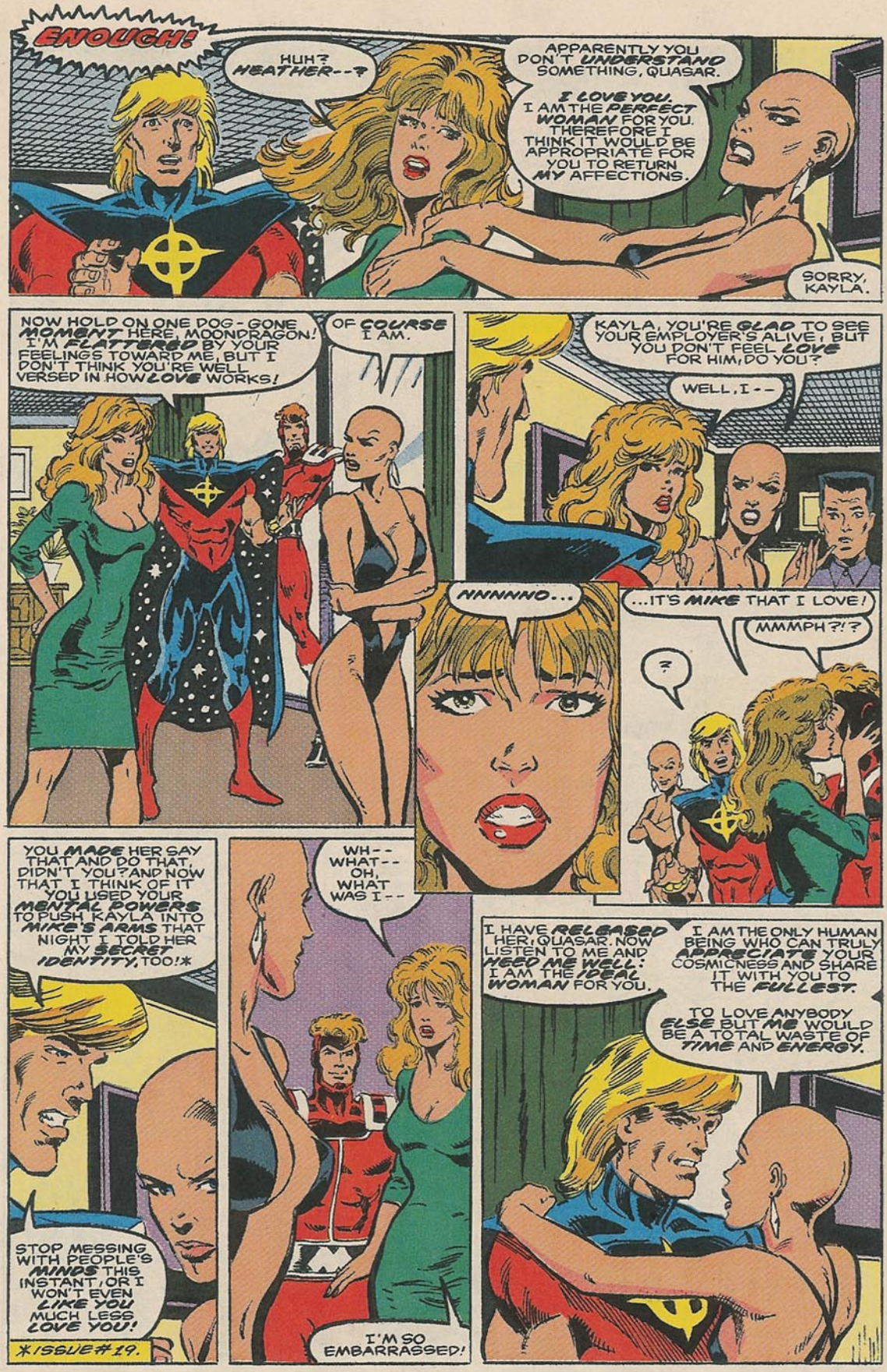
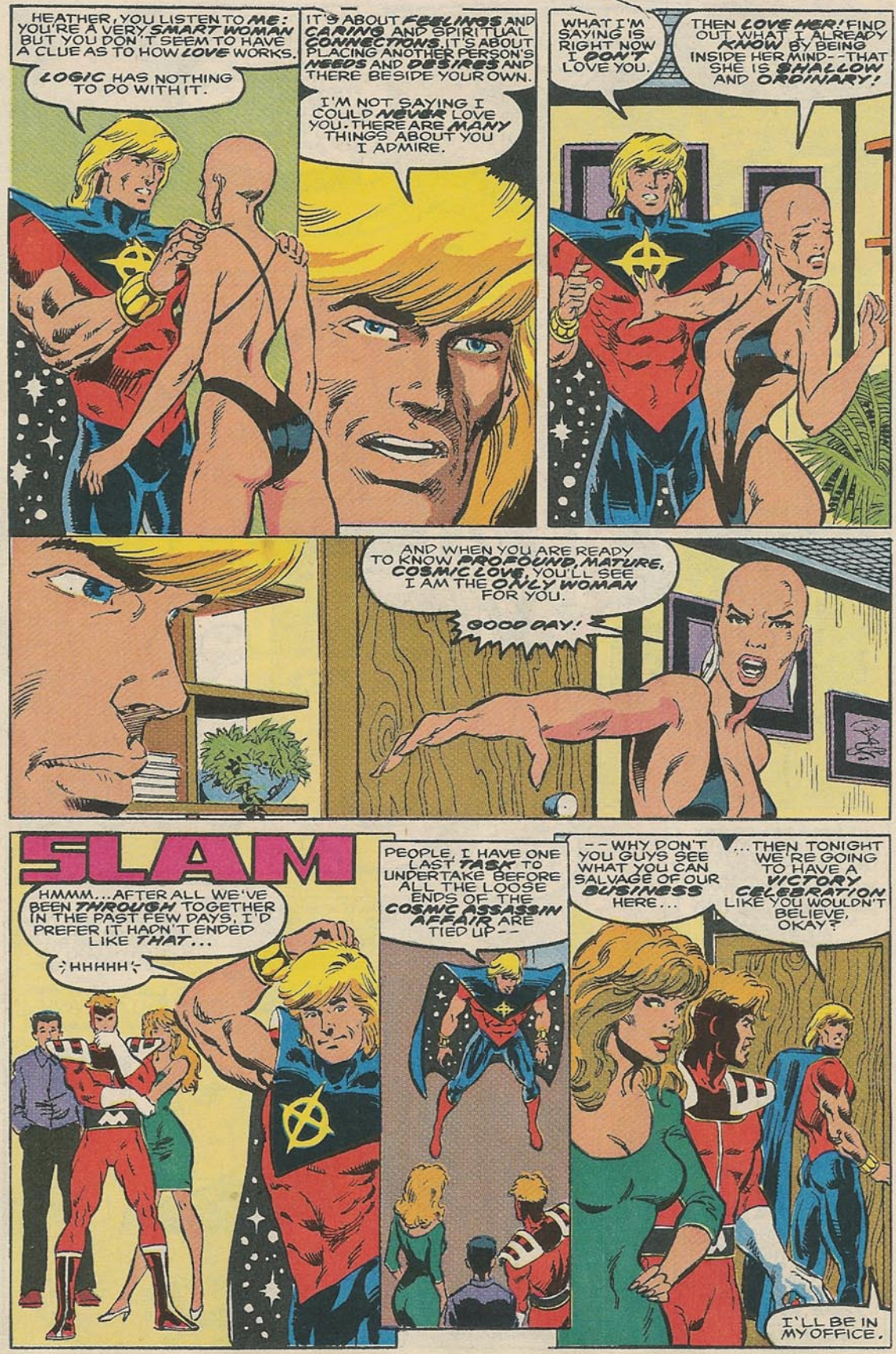
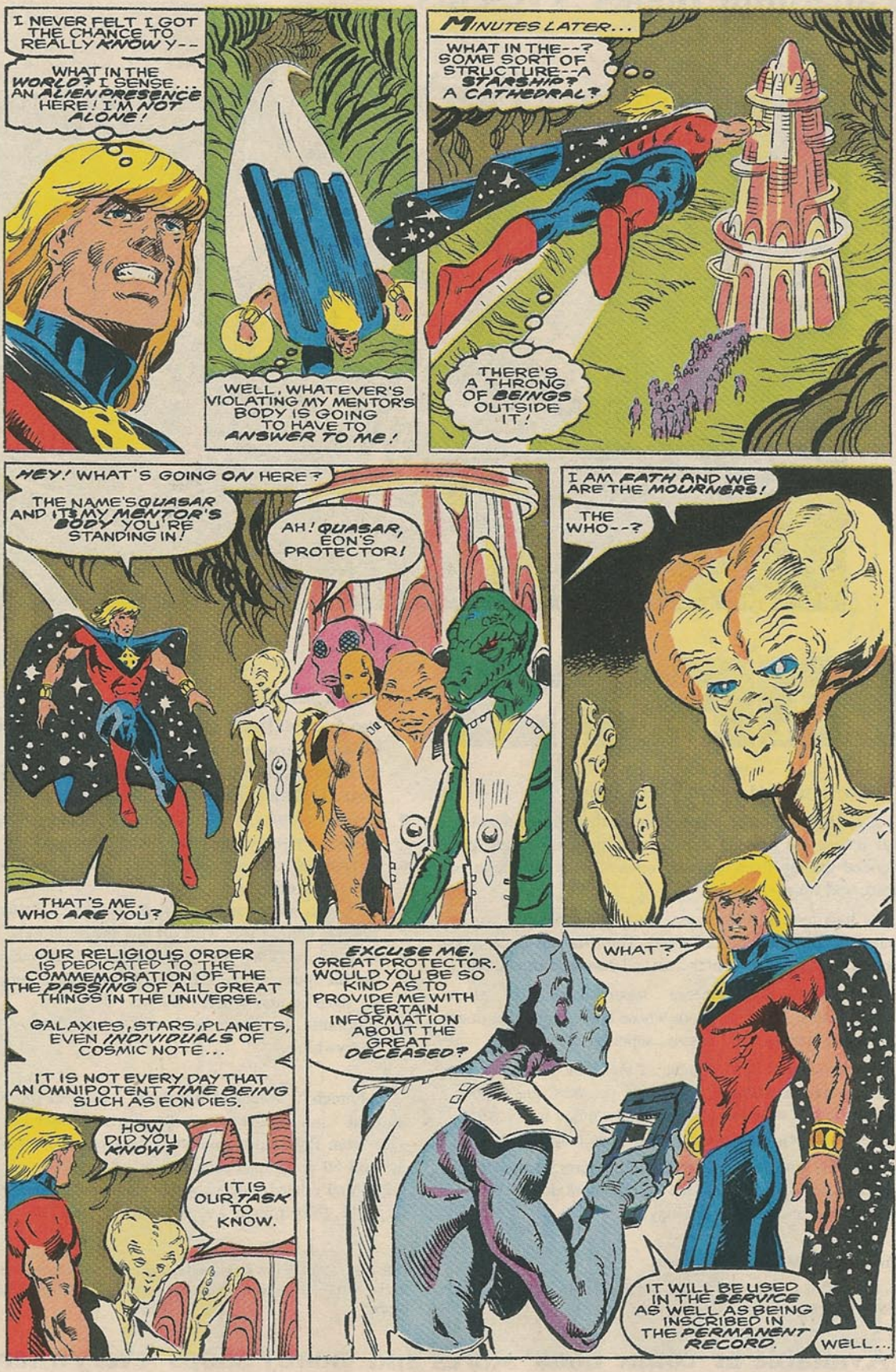

NEXT TIME HOW ABOUT SAVING A LITTLE SOMETHING FOR ME TO DO, Q-STER? SHEESH, YOU SURE KNOW HOW TO MAKE A GUY FEEL SUPERFLUOUS!
DON'T WORRY, MAK, YOU'LL ALWAYS BE "FLUOUS" IN MY BOOK!
KEN, DO YOU THINK THAT WITH ALL OF MR. VAUGHN'S POWERS HE'LL FIND SOME WAY TO... TO SURVIVE...?
I WISH I KNEW, KAYLA.
HA! BOY, YOU ARE IN A GOOD MOOD!
YOO-HOO! ANYBODY HOME?
I WISH I--
OH!
WHEN I SIGNED UP TO BE MR. VAUGHN'S SECRETARY, I NEVER DREAMED I'D BE GETTING MIXED UP IN SUCH CRAZY STUFF...
MR. VAUGHN!? OH, MR. VAUGHNNNNNNN-- WENDELL!
IN THE FLESH.
WHAT HAPPENED!? WE THOUGHT YOU TWO WERE--WERE DEAD!
LONG STORY, BUT OBVIOUSLY WE GOT BETTER. SUFFICE TO SAY, THAT THE COSMIC MENACE I WAS APPOINTED TO COMBAT IS GONE FOR GOOD...
...ALL OF MAELSTROM'S LITTLE HELPERS HAVE BEEN LOCKED AWAY...
...AND I EVEN GOT MY HANDS PUT BACK GOOD AS NEW!
OH, IT'S SO GOOD TO SEE YOU... I WAS-- SO--SO--FRIGHTENED THAT YOU--
SORRY YOU AND KEN HAD TO SUFFER THROUGH ALL OF THAT JUST BECAUSE YOU HAPPENED TO BE MY FRIENDS...
I SWEAR I'LL DO EVERYTHING I CAN TO PREVENT ANYTHING LIKE THAT FROM, UM...
HER EYES... MAKING ME MELT...


ENOUGH!
HUH? HEATHER--?
APPARENTLY YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND SOMETHING, QUASAR.
I LOVE YOU. I AM THE PERFECT WOMAN FOR YOU. THEREFORE I THINK IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR YOU TO RETURN MY AFFECTIONS.
SORRY, KAYLA.
NOW HOLD ON ONE DOG-GONE MOMENT HERE, MOONDRAGON! I'M FLATTERED BY YOUR FEELINGS TOWARD ME, BUT I DON'T THINK YOU'RE WELL VERSED IN HOW LOVE WORKS!
OF COURSE I AM.
KAYLA, YOU'RE GLAD TO SEE YOUR EMPLOYER'S ALIVE, BUT YOU DON'T FEEL LOVE FOR HIM, DO YOU?
WELL, I--
NNNNNO...
...IT'S MIKE THAT I LOVE!
MMMPH?!?
?
YOU MADE HER SAY THAT AND DO THAT, DIDN'T YOU? AND NOW THAT I THINK OF IT YOU USED YOUR MENTAL POWERS TO PUSH KAYLA INTO MIKE'S ARMS THAT NIGHT I TOLD HER MY SECRET IDENTITY, TOO!*
STOP MESSING WITH PEOPLE'S MINDS THIS INSTANT, OR I WON'T EVEN LIKE YOU MUCH LESS LOVE YOU!
*ISSUE #19.
WH--WHAT--OH, WHAT WAS I--
I'M SO EMBARRASSED!
I HAVE RELEASED HER, QUASAR. NOW LISTEN TO ME AND HEED ME WELL: I AM THE IDEAL WOMAN FOR YOU.
I AM THE ONLY HUMAN BEING WHO CAN TRULY APPRECIATE YOUR COSMICNESS AND SHARE IT WITH YOU TO THE FULLEST.
TO LOVE ANYBODY ELSE BUT ME WOULD BE A TOTAL WASTE OF TIME AND ENERGY.


HEATHER, YOU LISTEN TO ME: YOU'RE A VERY SMART WOMAN BUT YOU DON'T SEEM TO HAVE A CLUE AS TO HOW LOVE WORKS.
LOGIC HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH IT.
IT'S ABOUT FEELINGS AND CARING AND SPIRITUAL CONNECTIONS. IT'S ABOUT PLACING ANOTHER PERSON'S NEEDS AND DESIRES AND THERE BESIDE YOUR OWN.
I'M NOT SAYING I COULD NEVER LOVE YOU. THERE ARE MANY THINGS ABOUT YOU I ADMIRE.
WHAT I'M SAYING IS RIGHT NOW I DON'T LOVE YOU.
THEN LOVE HER! FIND OUT WHAT I ALREADY KNOW BY BEING INSIDE HER MIND--THAT SHE IS SHALLOW AND ORDINARY!
AND WHEN YOU ARE READY TO KNOW PROFOUND, MATURE, COSMIC LOVE, YOU'LL SEE I AM THE ONLY WOMAN FOR YOU.
GOOD DAY!
SLAM
HMMM...AFTER ALL WE'VE BEEN THROUGH TOGETHER IN THE PAST FEW DAYS, I'D PREFER IT HADN'T ENDED LIKE THAT...
;HHHHH;
PEOPLE, I HAVE ONE LAST TASK TO UNDERTAKE BEFORE ALL THE LOOSE ENDS OF THE COSMIC ASSASSIN AFFAIR ARE TIED UP--
--WHY DON'T YOU GUYS SEE WHAT YOU CAN SALVAGE OF OUR BUSINESS HERE...
...THEN TONIGHT WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A VICTORY CELEBRATION LIKE YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE, OKAY?
I'LL BE IN MY OFFICE.

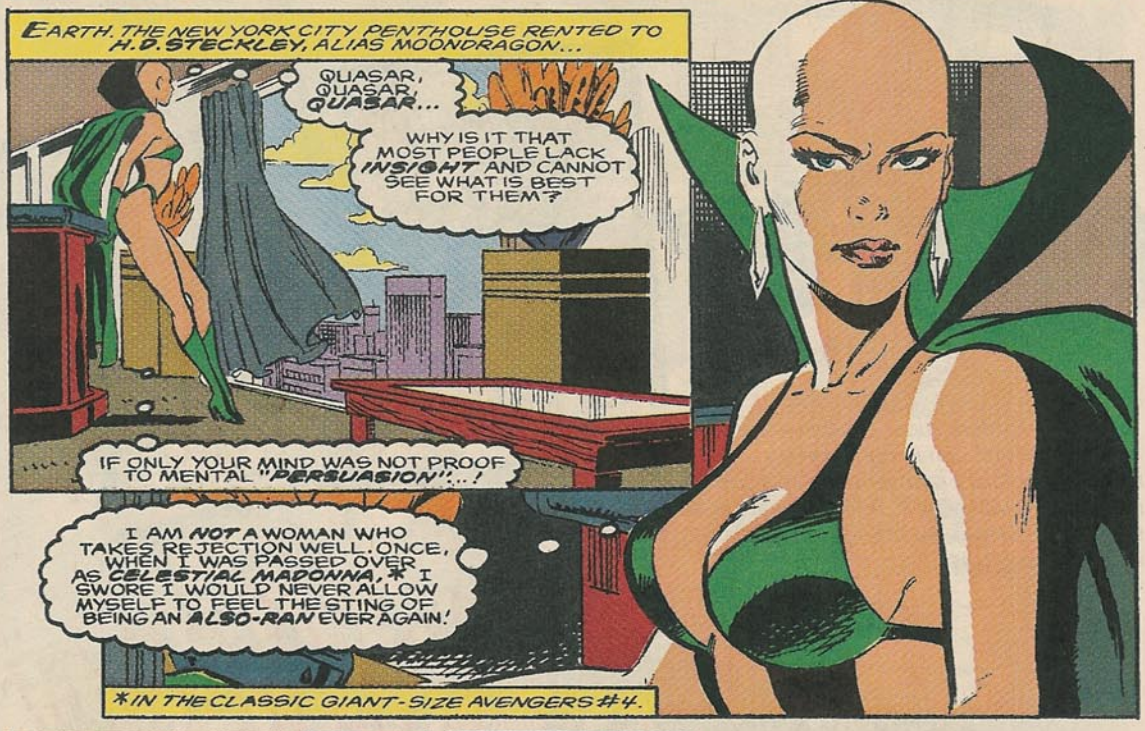
AS EXHILARATED AS I AM TO NOT HAVE THE BIG COSMIC THREAT HANGING OVER MY HEAD ANYMORE...
...I CAN'T FORGET THAT PART OF THE PRICE OF MY VICTORY WAS MY COSMIC MENTOR EON DIED...!
EON...THE EIGHT BILLION YEAR OLD BEING WHO APPOINTED ME PROTECTOR OF THE UNIVERSE... WONDER IF HIS COSMIC AWARENESS ENABLED HIM TO PREDICT HIS OWN DEATH...?
HE'S NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO CHEAT DEATH LIKE MAK AND I DID. HIS DEMISE WAS PART OF THE PACT THE GREAT ABSTRACT BEINGS OF THE UNIVERSE STRUCK.
BEHIND THIS BOOKCASE I USED TO HAVE A PORTAL TO THE POCKET DIMENSION IN WHICH HE LIVED--
--THE EONVERSE.
IT WAS SEALED OFF WHEN EON AND I HAD A BRIEF FALLING OUT.*
THEN IT'S TIME I REOPENED IT, SO I CAN GO IN AND PAY MY LAST RESPECTS.
*ISSUE #19 AGAIN.
THERE.
COULD IT ONLY BE A WEEK AGO THAT I LEARNED THE EONVERSE WASN'T REALLY STARRY SPACE--THAT EON'S BODY FILLED 95 PER CENT OF IT?
SEEMS LIKE A LIFETIME AGO.
IT'S SO EERIE IN HERE NOW...SO QUIET AND COLD...
GUESS I NEVER NOTICED HOW WARM AND HOSPITABLE EON'S LIFE ESSENCE MADE THIS PLACE...
HI, EON...IT'S ME, QUASAR. I DON'T KNOW IF YOU CAN HEAR ME--AFTER EVERYTHING I'VE BEEN THROUGH, I HESITATE TO MAKE ANY ASSUMPTIONS--BUT ANYWAY I'VE COME TO SAY GOODBYE...

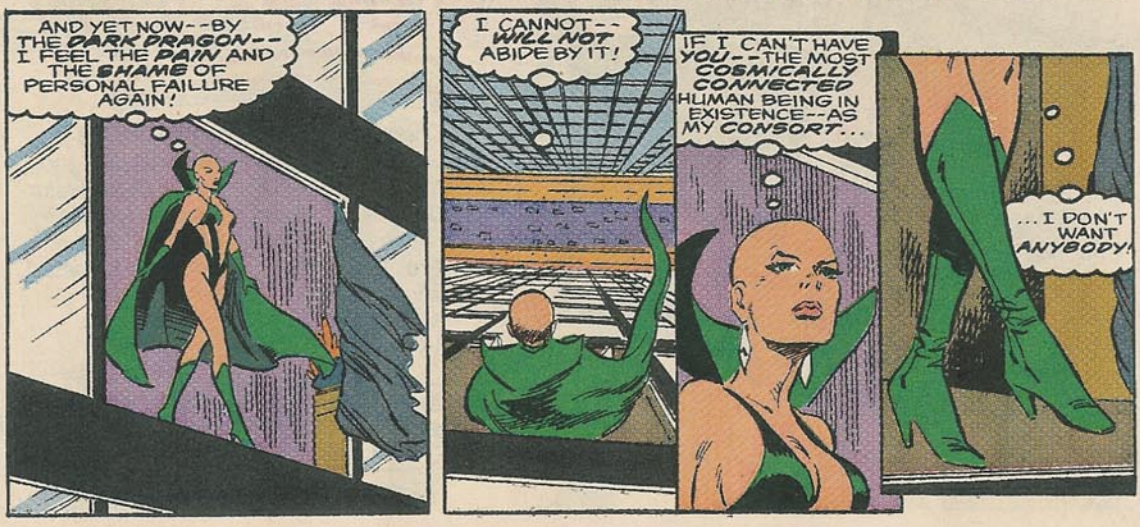

I NEVER FELT I GOT THE CHANCE TO REALLY KNOW Y--
WHAT IN THE WORLD? I SENSE... AN ALIEN PRESENCE HERE! I'M NOT ALONE!
WELL, WHATEVER'S VIOLATING MY MENTOR'S BODY IS GOING TO HAVE TO ANSWER TO ME!
MINUTES LATER...
WHAT IN THE--? SOME SORT OF STRUCTURE--A STARSHIP? A CATHEDRAL?
THERE'S A THRONG OF BEINGS OUTSIDE IT!
HEY! WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
THE NAME'S QUASAR AND IT'S MY MENTOR'S BODY YOU'RE STANDING IN!
AH! QUASAR, EON'S PROTECTOR!
THAT'S ME. WHO ARE YOU?
I AM FATH AND WE ARE THE MOURNERS!
THE WHO--?
OUR RELIGIOUS ORDER IS DEDICATED TO THE COMMEMORATION OF THE PASSING OF ALL GREAT THINGS IN THE UNIVERSE.
GALAXIES, STARS, PLANETS, EVEN INDIVIDUALS OF COSMIC NOTE...
IT IS NOT EVERY DAY THAT AN OMNIPOTENT TIME BEING SUCH AS EON DIES.
HOW DID YOU KNOW?
IT IS OUR TASK TO KNOW.
EXCUSE ME, GREAT PROTECTOR. WOULD YOU BE SO KIND AS TO PROVIDE ME WITH CERTAIN INFORMATION ABOUT THE GREAT DECEASED?
WHAT?
IT WILL BE USED IN THE SERVICE AS WELL AS BEING INSCRIBED IN THE PERMANENT RECORD.
WELL...

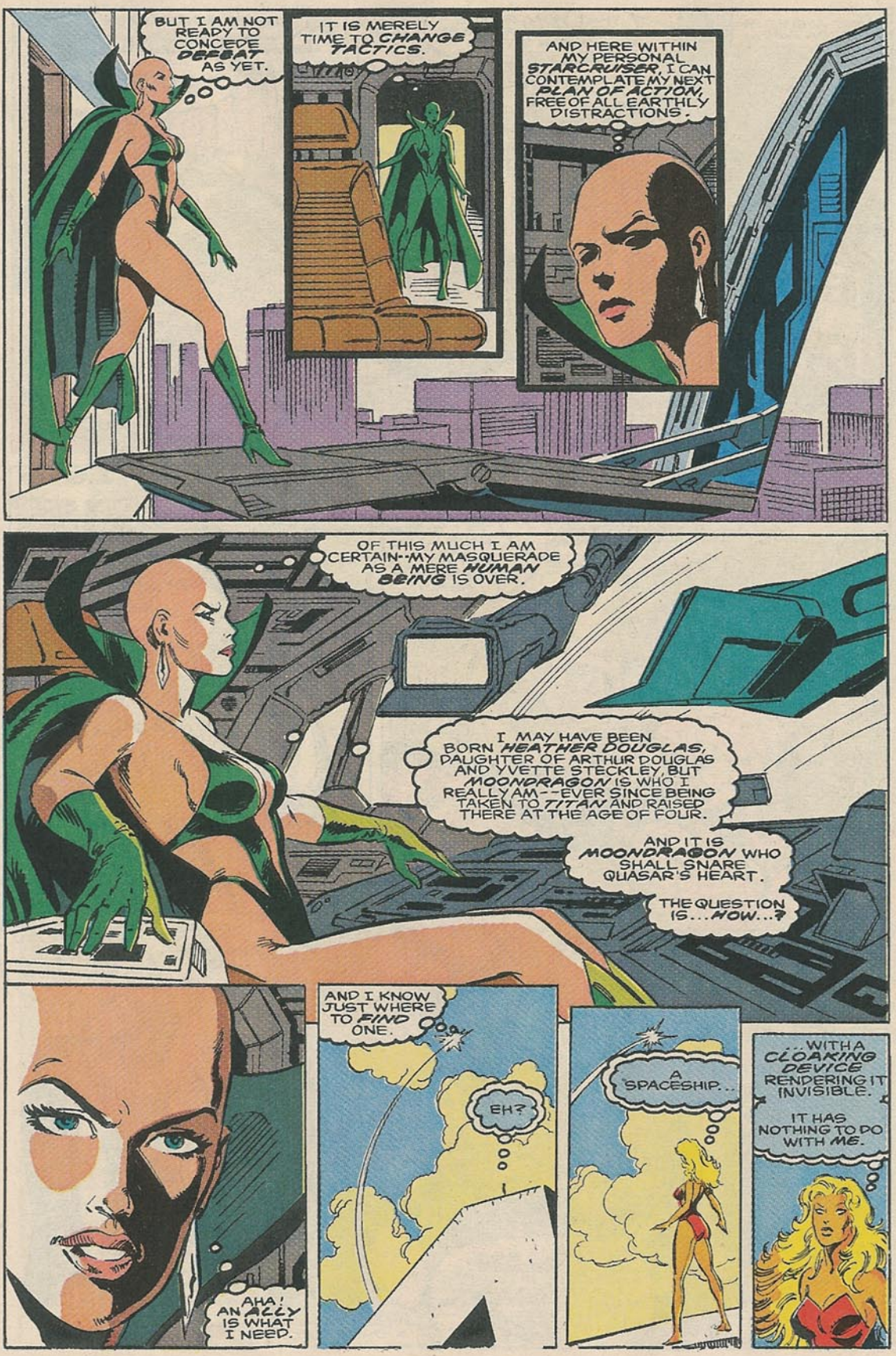
HOW DID GREAT EON DIE?
WELL, UH... HE HAD ME DESTROY A VITAL PART OF HIS BRAIN...
...IN ORDER TO KEEP HIS ASSASSIN FROM EXTRACTING THE SECRET OF COSMIC AWARENESS.
YOU THEN ARE HIS GREAT ASSASSIN?
NO! I WAS HIS BODYGUARD, THOUGH I ADMIT IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE I DID A VERY GOOD JOB OF IT.
DOES GREAT EON HAVE ANY NEXT OF KIN?
UM, NOT THAT HE EVER MENTIONED.
DID HE LEAVE A LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT?
NOT THAT I KNOW OF.
ANY INSTRUCTIONS ABOUT HIS FUNERAL ARRANGE-MENTS? WHAT SORT OF SERVICE? WHO TO INVITE? WHERE HE WOULD LIKE HIS TOMB?
NO! WE HAD NO TIME TO DISCUSS IT!
THEN WOULD IT BE ACCEPTABLE TO EMPOWER US WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY TO HANDLE THE ARRANGEMENTS IN THE MANNER WE SEE FIT?
SURE, I GUESS.
YOU'VE BEEN MOST COOPERATIVE, GREAT BODYGUARD.
SAY, THIS ISN'T GOING TO COST ME ANYTHING, IS IT?
NO... THE MOURNERS ARE A NOT-FOR-PROFIT-SECT.
MIND IF I LOOK AROUND A BIT?
AND...
FROM WHAT I CAN TELL, THE MOURNERS ARE WHAT THEY APPEAR TO BE--A RELIGIOUS SECT COMPOSED OF A WHOLE BUNCH OF DIFFERENT ALIEN RACES.
THEIR SHIP CARRIES NO WEAPONS, JUST TONS OF RELIGIOUS ARTIFACTS.
GUESS THERE'S NO HARM LETTING THEM DO WHAT THEY WANT.
THE FUNERAL SERVICE WILL COMMENCE IN 3.14 OF YOUR DAYS.
WE WOULD BE HONORED IF YOU COULD ATTEND.
I'LL BE THERE.
I ACTUALLY LIKE THE IDEA OF THERE BEING A BIG TO-DO FOR EON.
IF ANYONE DESERVES A BIG FUNERAL, IT'S AN EIGHT BILLION YEAR OLD BEING.

MEANWHILE, ELSEWHERE...
AWFULLY DECENT OF YOU TO LET ME SIT HERE BESIDE YOU, LORD THANOS...
...I KNOW YOU FASHIONED THIS SEAT FOR MISTRESS DEATH, BUT HAVE NOT I MEPHISTO, GREATEST OF ALL DEMONS OF EARTH, PROVED TO BE A WORTHY COMPANION TO YOUR EMINENCE?
HAHAHAHA
MY LORD? PRAY TELL ME WHAT IS SO FUNNY!
I HAVE JUST PERCEIVED THAT ONE OF MY GREATEST ENEMIES IS DEAD!
NOT THAT I BELIEVE I COULD EVER REPLACE MISTRESS DEATH IN YOUR AFFECTIONS--HEAVEN FORBID! I JUST THINK THAT AS A COUNSELOR, A LIEUTENANT, AND A DEVOTED SERVANT YOU COULD NOT FIND A--
A VICTIM OF YOUR HALVING OF THE UNIVERSE'S POPULATION, SIRE?
NO. MY POPULATION IMPLOSION DID NOT AFFECT THE LIKES OF HIM.
WHO, SIRE?
BEHOLD ANCIENT EON, SECOND ELDEST OF THE TIME BEINGS...THE ENTITY MOST RESPONSIBLE FOR MY FIRST IGNOMINIOUS DEFEAT!
IT WAS EON WHO BROUGHT INTO BEING THE RELENTLESS DRAX THE DESTROYER TO PLAGUE ME...AND APPOINTED THE LATE CAPTAIN MAR-VELL PROTECTOR OF THE UNIVERSE AND GAVE HIM THE POWER TO THWART MY EARLY MACHINATIONS.
IF NOT YOU, WHO KILLED EON, MILORD?
WHILE I HAVE BEEN ENGAGED IN MY OWN AGENDA, THERE ROSE AN EARTH BEING CALLED MAELSTROM, A BEING WHOSE POWER MIGHT HAVE RIVALLED MY OWN.
THIS MAELSTROM--NOW IRREVOCABLY DESTROYED HIMSELF--MANEUVERED MAR-VELL'S SUCCESSOR INTO KILLING EON. THUS I AM SPARED THE TROUBLE AND HAVE ONE LESS POWERFUL ENEMY.
SIRE...YOU DO NOT FEEL CHEATED THAT YOU COULD NOT DISPATCH EON PERSONALLY...?

NOT IN THE LEAST! FOR I AM THANOS, LORD OF ALL THINGS, AND EVEN IN DEATH--
--I SHALL MAKE EON SERVE ME!
BRILLIANT PLAN, MILORD--BRILLIANT!
NOW GET OFF MY BELOVED'S THRONE, LACKEY!
IMMEDIATELY, SIRE!


EARTH. THE NEW YORK CITY PENTHOUSE RENTED TO H.D. STECKLEY, ALIAS MOONDRAGON...
QUASAR, QUASAR, QUASAR...
WHY IS IT THAT MOST PEOPLE LACK INSIGHT AND CANNOT SEE WHAT IS BEST FOR THEM?
IF ONLY YOUR MIND WAS NOT PROOF TO MENTAL "PERSUASION"...!
I AM NOT A WOMAN WHO TAKES REJECTION WELL. ONCE, WHEN I WAS PASSED OVER AS CELESTIAL MADONNA,* I SWORE I WOULD NEVER ALLOW MYSELF TO FEEL THE STING OF BEING AN ALSO-RAN EVER AGAIN!
*IN THE CLASSIC GIANT-SIZE AVENGERS #4.


AND YET NOW--BY THE DARK DRAGON--I FEEL THE PAIN AND THE SHAME OF PERSONAL FAILURE AGAIN!
I CANNOT--WILL NOT ABIDE BY IT!
IF I CAN'T HAVE YOU--THE MOST COSMICALLY CONNECTED HUMAN BEING IN EXISTENCE--AS MY CONSORT...
...I DON'T WANT ANYBODY!


BUT I AM NOT READY TO CONCEDE DEFEAT AS YET.
IT IS MERELY TIME TO CHANGE TACTICS.
AND HERE WITHIN MY PERSONAL STARCRUISER, I CAN CONTEMPLATE MY NEXT PLAN OF ACTION, FREE OF ALL EARTHLY DISTRACTIONS.
OF THIS MUCH I AM CERTAIN--MY MASQUERADE AS A MERE HUMAN BEING IS OVER.
I MAY HAVE BEEN BORN HEATHER DOUGLAS, DAUGHTER OF ARTHUR DOUGLAS AND YVETTE STECKLEY, BUT MOONDRAGON IS WHO I REALLY AM--EVER SINCE BEING TAKEN TO TITAN AND RAISED THERE AT THE AGE OF FOUR.
AND IT IS MOONDRAGON WHO SHALL SNARE QUASAR'S HEART.
THE QUESTION IS...HOW...?
AHA! AN ALLY IS WHAT I NEED.
AND I KNOW JUST WHERE TO FIND ONE.
EH?
A SPACESHIP...
...WITH A CLOAKING DEVICE RENDERING IT INVISIBLE.
IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ME.

THAT NIGHT, IN WISCONSIN...

THAT *YOU*, GAYLE? YOU'RE HOME FROM WORK EARLY.

GUESS *AGAIN*, MOM.

WENNY!

AW, MY *BRACELETS* GIVE ME AWAY?

OH, SONNER! SO GOOD TO *SEE* YOU! WHAT'S THE OCCASION?

I WANTED TO LET YOU KNOW THE *GOOD NEWS*, MOM. I JUST GOT DONE DEFEATING THE *MAIN BADGUY* I WAS APPOINTED TO PROTECT THE UNIVERSE FROM.

THE UNIVERSE IS *SAFE*, I'M *FINE* AND I CAN'T IMAGINE I'LL *EVER* HAVE TO GO THROUGH ANYTHING SO *DANGEROUS* AGAIN!

THAT'S *WONDERFUL*, SON. AND I SEE YOU CHANGED YOUR *COSTUME*, TOO.

YEAH. *LIKE IT?*

YOU LOOK *GREAT.*

MOM, I, UH, WANT TO *APOLOGIZE* FOR HOW BADLY I ACTED AT *DAD'S FUNERAL.** I WAS REALLY *BUMMED OUT* AND, WELL...

...SINCE THEN I'VE MADE *PEACE* WITH DAD'S MEMORY.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO *APOLOGIZE*, WENDELL. IF I CAN'T FIGURE OUT WHEN YOU'RE *UPSET* BY NOW, I SHOULD TURN IN MY *MOTHER'S LICENSE.*

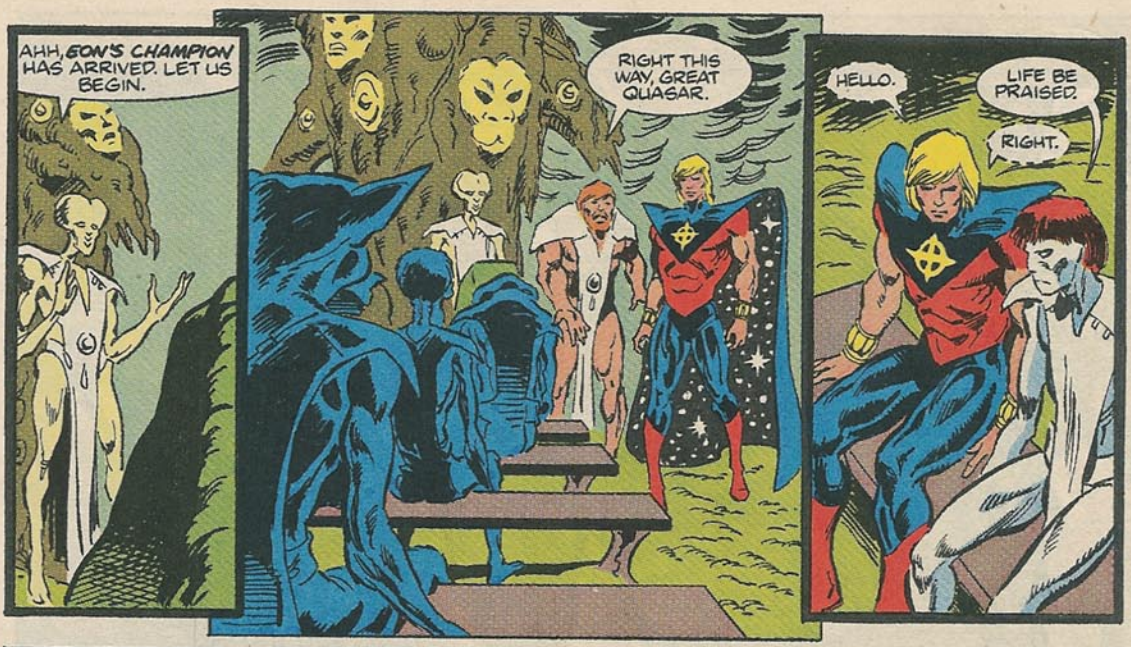
*ISSUE #20.

YOU'RE THE *GREATEST*, MOM.

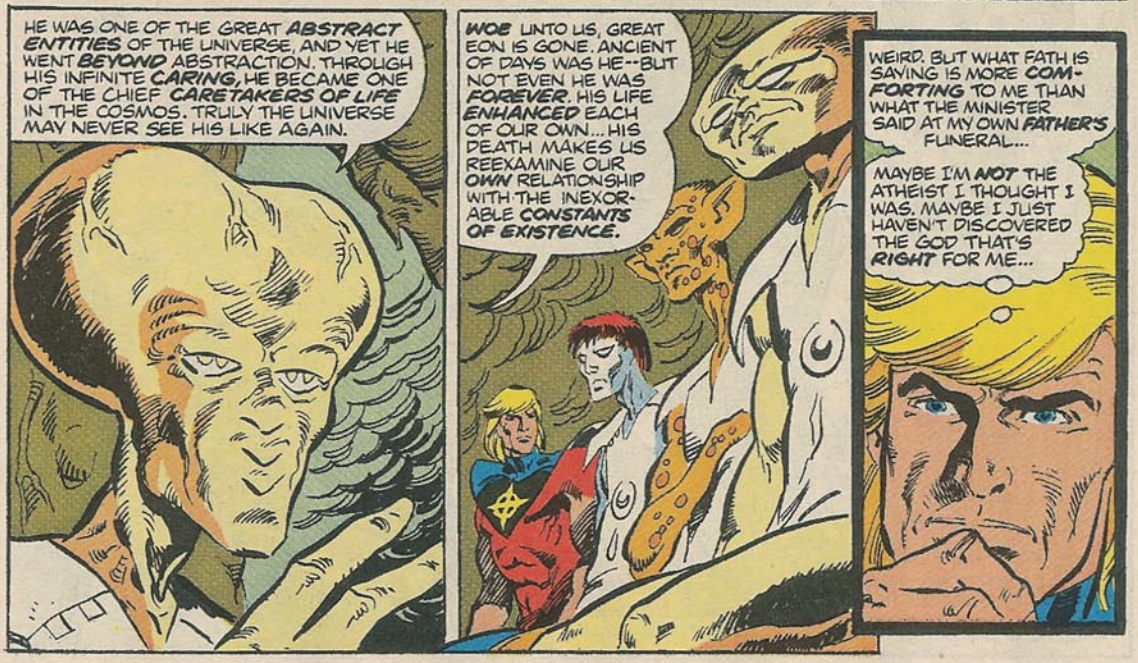
AND I PROMISE I'M GOING TO VISIT YOU *MORE OFTEN* FROM NOW ON.

I WON'T HOLD YOU TO IT.

THREE DAYS LATER, HAVING CELEBRATED WITH HIS FRIENDS, PICKED UP THE PIECES OF HIS PROFESSIONAL LIFE, AND HELPED A FELLOW AVENGER ON ONE OF HIS CASES,* QUASAR RETURNS TO THE EONVERSE AT THE APPOINTED HOUR...
WHEW. LOOKS LIKE I'M THE LAST TO ARRIVE.
THAT TOTEM POLE... ALMOST LOOKS LIKE IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE EON. COULD THAT BE WHAT EON REALLY LOOKED LIKE ?
HE TOLD ME THAT ALL I'D EVER SEEN OF HIM WAS THE PART HE EXTENDED INTO MY UNIVERSE.!
AND WHO THE HECK ARE ALL THESE GUESTS ? THAT SECTION BELOW ME LOOKS LIKE IT'S POPULATED WITH THE DEATH FIGURES OF A COUPLE DOZEN DIFFERENT WORLDS.
HOPE THEY DON'T MAKE ME SIT IN THAT SECTION!
* SEE CAPTAIN AMERICA #392, CURRENTLY ON SALE.


AHH, EON'S CHAMPION HAS ARRIVED. LET US BEGIN.
RIGHT THIS WAY, GREAT QUASAR.
HELLO.
LIFE BE PRAISED.
RIGHT.

DEAR FRIENDS, WE ARE GATHERED TOGETHER AT THIS JUNCTURE IN SPACE-TIME TO MARK THE PASSING OF A GREAT INDIVIDUAL... A SINGULAR ENTITY WHO MADE AN ENORMOUS CONTRIBUTION TO THE UNIVERSE WE ALL SHARE...
EON, HE WAS CALLED, AND HE WAS THE ELDEST OF ETERNITY'S CHILDREN. HE IS BELIEVED TO HAVE COME INTO BEING MOMENTS AFTER TIME BEGAN. HE IS SAID TO HAVE ALIGNED HIMSELF WITH THE COSMIC AXIS ABOUT WHICH THE UNIVERSE REVOLVED.


HE WAS ONE OF THE GREAT ABSTRACT ENTITIES OF THE UNIVERSE, AND YET HE WENT BEYOND ABSTRACTION. THROUGH HIS INFINITE CARING, HE BECAME ONE OF THE CHIEF CARETAKERS OF LIFE IN THE COSMOS. TRULY THE UNIVERSE MAY NEVER SEE HIS LIKE AGAIN.
WOE UNTO US, GREAT EON IS GONE. ANCIENT OF DAYS WAS HE--BUT NOT EVEN HE WAS FOREVER. HIS LIFE ENHANCED EACH OF OUR OWN... HIS DEATH MAKES US REEXAMINE OUR OWN RELATIONSHIP WITH THE INEXORABLE CONSTANTS OF EXISTENCE.
WEIRD. BUT WHAT FATH IS SAYING IS MORE COMFORTING TO ME THAN WHAT THE MINISTER SAID AT MY OWN FATHER'S FUNERAL...
MAYBE I'M NOT THE ATHEIST I THOUGHT I WAS. MAYBE I JUST HAVEN'T DISCOVERED THE GOD THAT'S RIGHT FOR ME...

STOP THESE PROCEEDINGS!

YOU PAY YOUR **RESPECTS** TO AN ENTITY WHO DESERVES **NONE!** EON WAS A BLOATED **NON-ENTITY** WHO DID NOTHING BUT TAKE UP **TOO MUCH SPACE.** THE UNIVERSE IS **BETTER OFF** WITHOUT HIM!

THANOS!

HOW DID HE--

DO NOT **ANTAGONIZE** HIM, SARDAN!

YOU ARE NOT **WELCOME** HERE!

MY ONLY REGRET IS THAT **I** HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH HIS **DEMISE!**

OH, MAN--AND I TOLD MY **MOM** MY LIFE WOULDN'T BE AS **DANGEROUS** ANYMORE! THANOS WAS THE THREAT TO THE UNIVERSE MY **PREDECESSOR** WAS APPOINTED TO COMBAT. HE'S EASILY **MY THREAT--MAELSTORM'S--EQUAL!**

YOUR DISRESPECT HAS **NO PLACE** HERE, THANOS.

WHY DON'T YOU JUST BE A SWEETHEART AND **LEAVE?**

AND IF I **DON'T,** EARTH BOY?

THEN I **MAKE** YOU.

BE MY GUEST.

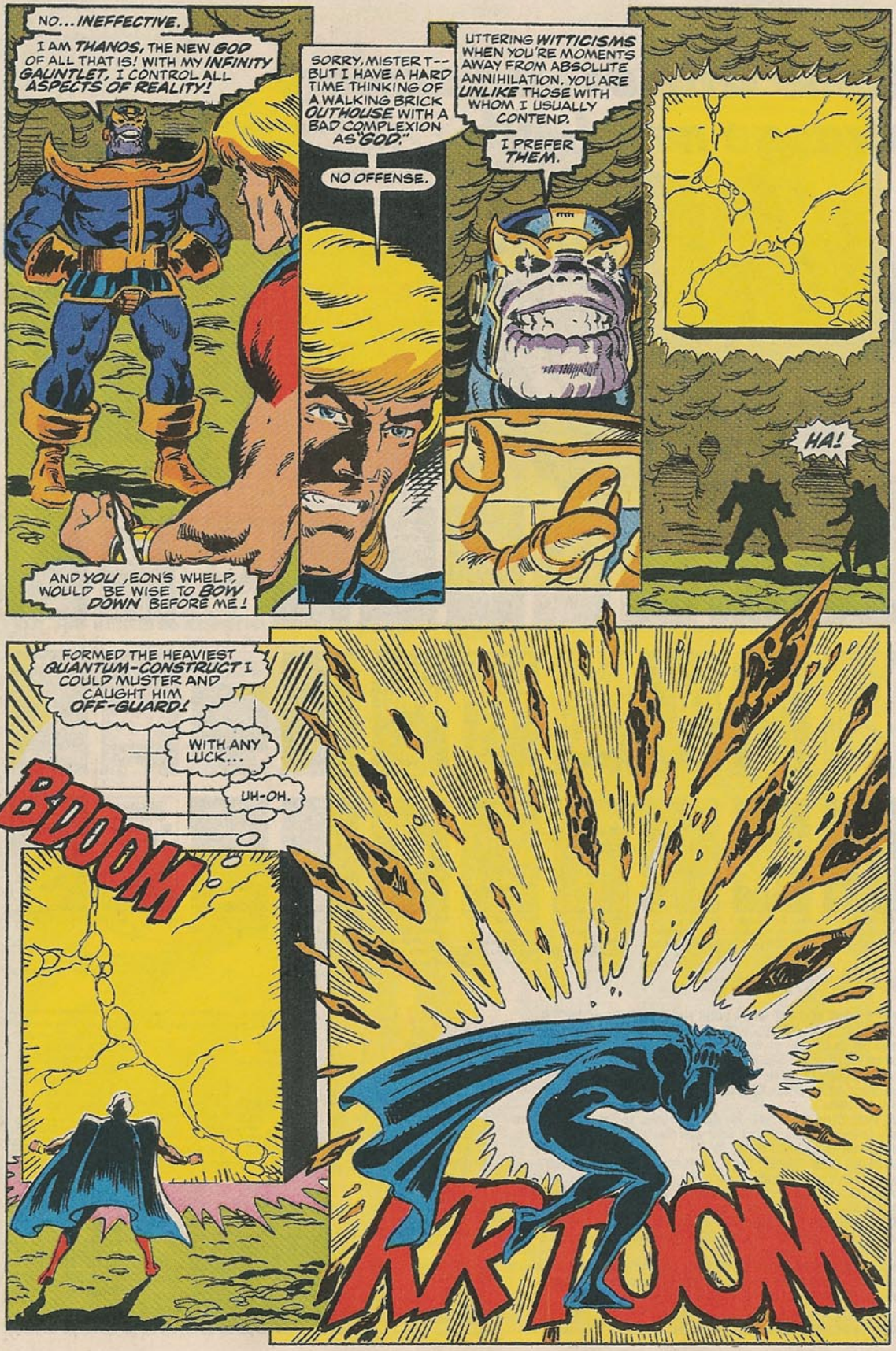
FATH, YOU'D BETTER SEE TO GETTING EVERYONE TO **SAFETY.**

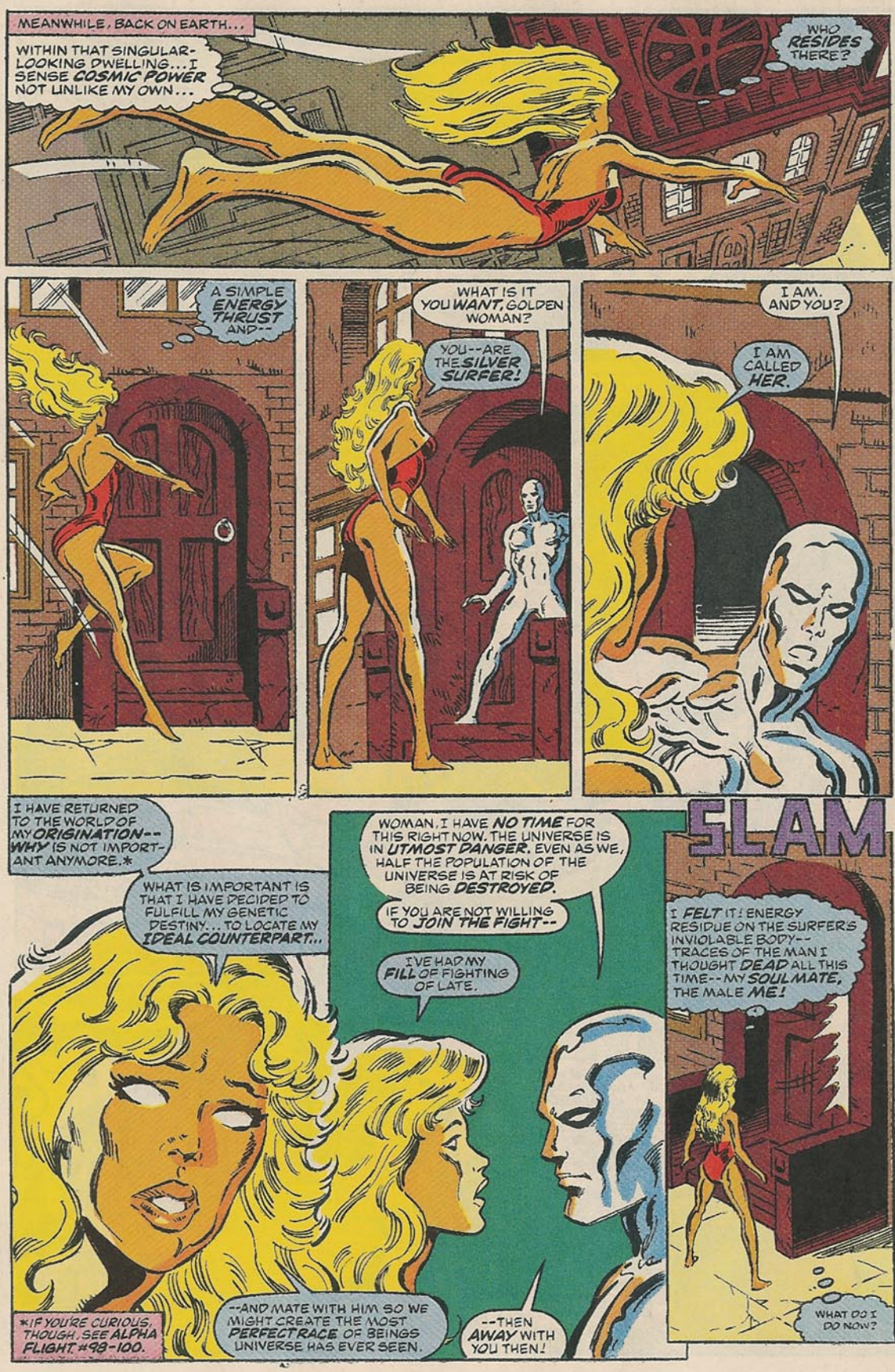
NO **TELLING** WHAT BULLY-BOY HERE MAY DECIDE TO DO.

DON'T THINK HE'S BUYING INTO MY **TOUGH GUY ACT...**

ENERGY FLUX--?!

FZLAAASH
TRYING TO HIT A GUY FROM BEHIND, MR.T--?
EVERYBODY--CLEAR OUT!
YOU MUST'VE BEEN TEACHER'S PET AT SUPER-VILLAIN SCHOOL!
NOT SURE WHAT TO TRY WITH THIS GUY--
--I'VE BEEN TOLD HE'S STOOD UP TO GETTING THOR'S HAMMER SMASHED IN HIS FACE WITHOUT FLINCHING!
BE THAT AS IT MAY, I'VE GOT TO KEEP HIM OCCUPIED TILL THE MOURNERS CAN GET TO SAFETY!
WHOOMP
KNOW WHAT THIS FIST IS MADE OF, THANNY? THE ENERGY YOU SHOT ME WITH. NEAT, HUH?


NO... INEFFECTIVE.
I AM THANOS, THE NEW GOD OF ALL THAT IS! WITH MY INFINITY GAUNTLET, I CONTROL ALL ASPECTS OF REALITY!
AND YOU, EON'S WHELP, WOULD BE WISE TO BOW DOWN BEFORE ME!
SORRY, MISTER T-- BUT I HAVE A HARD TIME THINKING OF A WALKING BRICK OUTHOUSE WITH A BAD COMPLEXION AS "GOD."
NO OFFENSE.
UTTERING WITTICISMS WHEN YOU'RE MOMENTS AWAY FROM ABSOLUTE ANNIHILATION. YOU ARE UNLIKE THOSE WITH WHOM I USUALLY CONTEND.
I PREFER THEM.
HA!
FORMED THE HEAVIEST QUANTUM-CONSTRUCT I COULD MUSTER AND CAUGHT HIM OFF-GUARD!
WITH ANY LUCK...
UH-OH.
BDOOM
KRTOOM


MEANWHILE, BACK ON EARTH...
WITHIN THAT SINGULAR-LOOKING DWELLING... I SENSE COSMIC POWER NOT UNLIKE MY OWN...
WHO RESIDES THERE?
A SIMPLE ENERGY THRUST AND--
WHAT IS IT YOU WANT, GOLDEN WOMAN?
YOU--ARE THE SILVER SURFER!
I AM. AND YOU?
I AM CALLED HER.
I HAVE RETURNED TO THE WORLD OF MY ORIGINATION--WHY IS NOT IMPORTANT ANYMORE.*
WHAT IS IMPORTANT IS THAT I HAVE DECIDED TO FULFILL MY GENETIC DESTINY... TO LOCATE MY IDEAL COUNTERPART...
WOMAN, I HAVE NO TIME FOR THIS RIGHT NOW. THE UNIVERSE IS IN UTMOST DANGER. EVEN AS WE, HALF THE POPULATION OF THE UNIVERSE IS AT RISK OF BEING DESTROYED.
IF YOU ARE NOT WILLING TO JOIN THE FIGHT--
I'VE HAD MY FILL OF FIGHTING OF LATE.
SLAM
I FELT IT! ENERGY RESIDUE ON THE SURFER'S INVIOLABLE BODY--TRACES OF THE MAN I THOUGHT DEAD ALL THIS TIME--MY SOULMATE, THE MALE ME!
WHAT DO I DO NOW?
*IF YOU'RE CURIOUS, THOUGH, SEE ALPHA FLIGHT #98-100.
--AND MATE WITH HIM SO WE MIGHT CREATE THE MOST PERFECT RACE OF BEINGS UNIVERSE HAS EVER SEEN.
--THEN AWAY WITH YOU THEN!

THE EONSPHERE...
ARE YOU ENJOYING YOURSELF, EARTHBOY?
DOES IT AMUSE YOU TO SEE HOW PUNY YOUR POWER IS COMPARED TO THAT OF A GOD?
GET OFF IT, THANNY. YOU'RE A PURPLE GORILLA WITH DELUSIONS OF GRANDEUR. IF YOU'RE A GOD, THEN I'M THE WIZARD OF OZ.
I AM UNFAMILIAR WITH HIM.
BUT WHAT YOU ARE IS AN ANNOYING, INSOLENT FLEA.
SORRY, PURPLE-PUSS--BUT I'LL--NNGH--SAVE MY RESPECT FOR THOSE WHO EARN IT--NNGH--IF YOU DON'T MIND.
WHOAA--!
VWOOOOSH
TRIED TO CRUSH ME, BUT I QUANTUM-JUMPED TO SAFETY!
I WISH FOR YOU TO ACKNOWLEDGE MY EXALTED STATION, BOY. I WANT YOU TO REALIZE THAT I CONTROL ALL REALITY. YOU ONLY EXIST BECAUSE I PERMIT YOU TO!
AS EON'S LAST LEGACY, YOU ARE PARTICULARLY UNIMPRESSIVE. STILL, I WISH YOU TO DEMONSTRATE RESPECT FOR YOUR SUPERIOR BEFORE I REVOKE YOUR EXISTENCE!
IT RIPPED A HOLE IN EON'S ATMOSPHERE! BUT IT'S NOT LIKE HE NEEDS IT ANYMORE.

TELEPORTATION, EH?
KINDA.
YOU HAVE ABILITIES YOUR PREDECESSOR DID NOT. NOT THAT THEY WILL AVAIL YOU AGAINST ME ANY MORE THAN MAR-VELL'S DID.
OH, NO? YOU MEAN, NOT EVEN IF I DIRECT--
--A HUNDRED MEGATON BLAST RIGHT BETWEEN YOUR EARS?
KRTOOM
HOPE THIS DOES SOMETHING! I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO TAP INTO THE ENERGY OF HIS INFINITY GAUNTLET UNLESS HE'S PROJECTING SOME OF IT.
GUESS HIS INFINITY GEMS AREN'T RELATED TO INFINITY, MY COSMIC BENEFACTOR!
EARTH BOY!
OH, CRUD.

THANOS HAS RE-FORMED BELOW!
YOUR FUTILE ANTIC HAVE BEEN MODERATELY AMUSING--
-- BUT I HAVE OTHER, GREATER FOES TO TORMENT.
I GO-- BUT I LEAVE YOU WITH A PARTING GIFT...
...SOME PLAYMATES PLUCKED FROM EON'S VESTIGAL MEMORY AND GIVEN FORM FROM THE SUBSTANCE OF EON'S BODY!
WHAT IN--?
FITTING TO FASHION GLADIATORS FROM THE GROUND TO PLAGUE YOU EVEN AS EON ONCE FASHIONED THE DESTROYER FROM THE GROUND TO PLAGUE ME!

BEHOLD, QUASAR, FOUR *PREVIOUS WIELDERS* OF YOUR PRECIOUS *QUANTUM-BANDS*-- BROUGHT BACK TO LIFE BY THE *ABSOLUTE POWER* THAT IS MINE!

REE OF THE LONG-EXTINCT ARCHEOPIANS!

AND FINALLY, THE *STYGIAN STARBENDER*-- THE FIRST PROTECTOR OF THE UNIVERSE EVER APPOINTED BY EON!

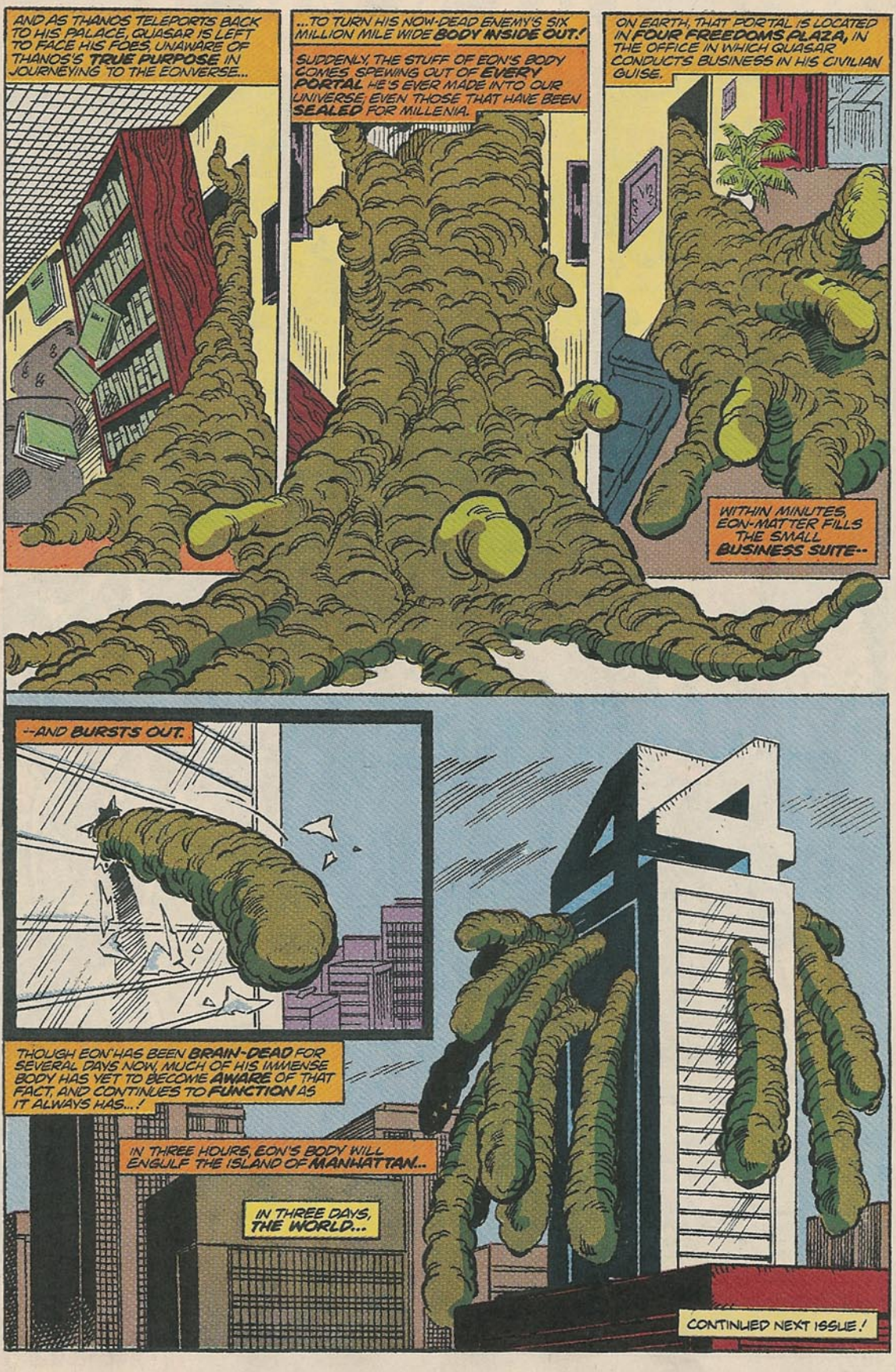
MARVEL BOY, THE PREVIOUS WEARER OF YOUR WRIST-TRINKETS!

TRANTRA THE TRILL--THE FIRST NON-HUMANOID QUANTUM-BAND POSSESSOR!

ALL OF THEM, ARMED WITH FULLY FUNCTIONAL *REPLICAS* OF YOUR QUANTUM-BANDS, AND SHARING A COMMON PURPOSE-- *TO DESTROY YOU!*

ONE, PERHAPS *TWO* OF THESE GLADIATORS YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO *BEST*. BUT *ALL FOUR* OF THEM? *NOT A CHANCE!*

FAREWELL, QUASAR-- OR SHALL I SAY, FARE *POORLY?*


AND AS THANOS TELEPORTS BACK TO HIS PALACE, QUASAR IS LEFT TO FACE HIS FOES, UNAWARE OF THANOS'S TRUE PURPOSE IN JOURNEYING TO THE EONVERSE...
...TO TURN HIS NOW-DEAD ENEMY'S SIX MILLION MILE WIDE BODY INSIDE OUT!
SUDDENLY, THE STUFF OF EON'S BODY COMES SPEWING OUT OF EVERY PORTAL HE'S EVER MADE INTO OUR UNIVERSE, EVEN THOSE THAT HAVE BEEN SEALED FOR MILLENIA.
ON EARTH, THAT PORTAL IS LOCATED IN FOUR FREEDOMS PLAZA, IN THE OFFICE IN WHICH QUASAR CONDUCTS BUSINESS IN HIS CIVILIAN GUISE.
WITHIN MINUTES, EON-MATTER FILLS THE SMALL BUSINESS SUITE--
--AND BURSTS OUT.
THOUGH EON HAS BEEN BRAIN-DEAD FOR SEVERAL DAYS NOW, MUCH OF HIS IMMENSE BODY HAS YET TO BECOME AWARE OF THAT FACT, AND CONTINUES TO FUNCTION AS IT ALWAYS HAS...!
IN THREE HOURS, EON'S BODY WILL ENGULF THE ISLAND OF MANHATTAN...
IN THREE DAYS, THE WORLD...
CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE!

STELLARGRAMS

Attention correspondents: All letters considered for publication must include your name and address, though we will withhold that information upon request.

KELLY CORVESE: EDITOR

Dear Mark and Howard,

QUASAR #18 was a weird and really unsettling issue. I liked the "Twilight Zone" ish feel of the story, with its calm, pleasant reality skewed by Quasar's loss of memory and the appearance of the Unbeing. There was a nice, slowly building creepiness here, particularly after the Unbeing revealed his plan to kill "Origin." I loved the notion of putting this incredibly powerful entity in the guise of a geeky, ten year old kid, and it was nice to see more of Wendell's family, if only in a story of questionable reality. (Does he really like people to call him "Wenny"?) I was glad to see him figure out which cosmic omnipotent was which; he's getting pretty good at winning battles with his mind (even though the energy bands did come in handy here, too).

But, guys, I have some major problems with this idea of Origin and Unbeing's complete manipulation of all of Earth's heroes' histories. Are you really saying that Origin caused the acquisition of powers for every single powered entity on the planet? If so, aren't you negating the entire notion of free will in the Marvel Universe Universe? For example, if Origin caused say, Peter Parker to become Spider-Man, he would have orchestrated events in such a way that Parker had to become Spider-Man. This allows for absolutely no free will on Parker's part, or by extension, any free will for any other Marvel powered character, at least at the time of his/her in which he/she became superpowered. To me, this really undercuts the drama of each hero's origin. One of the compelling things about hero origins, for me at least, is the randomness with which they occur, reflecting the unpredictable nature of real life. If there was truly a guiding hand behind all the origins, I don't know, some of the magic and wonder will have disappeared from the Marvel Universe. And how exactly did this pre-destination work? Would Peter Parker have been Spider-Man in any event, regardless of whatever personal choice he made (to go to the science exhibit or not, etc.)? If so, Origin was exerting some kind of mind control on Peter, thus seriously altering a landmark, classic Marvel story and in my opinion, greatly diluting it. If you say that Origin's power didn't that way and that he merely set up events so that *someone*, not necessarily Peter, would become Spider-Man, that helps to protects his free will but it also effectively destroys his uniqueness. Either way, the notion of Origin somehow makes the Marvel Universe a more controlled, and thus more boring, place.

Other questions come to mind. If Origin existed back when Korvac tried to conquer the universe, as he certainly must have, why wouldn't Korvac have become aware of him, sensed his great power as a potential threat and tried to destroy him? Surely with his heightened awareness Korvac would have been aware of him? And how about the Beyonder? After all of his interacting with Marvel heroes and curiosity about them, wouldn't he have inevitably run into Origin?

Let me just add here that I'm really enjoying series in general and it's always right at the top of my "monthly" "must-read" list. I think the new emphasis on truly cosmic otherworldly adventures is a good one; there are far too few good cosmic books out there and I'd hate to see Quaze's great potential marred by too many Earthbound adventures. You have to keep him somewhat grounded, of course, since he is a human being, with friends, family and a real life on Earth, but continue to balance this grounding with wild, freewheeling, imaginative stories.

Sorry the book is in trouble saleswise. It's non-hyped, under rated "quiet" books like this that I usually enjoy most and I hope that somehow it can find a wider audience.

Michael J. Miller
513 Monroe Street
Hanover, IL 61041

Us, too, Michael. Glad you found issue #18 thought provoking. That was the point. As for your free will negation problem, you're basing what Origin did/can do on what the Unbeing powing as Origin said s/he did/can do. We don't really know what the real Origin did or can do, besides change Quasar's costume. As for Korvac . . . there are any number of cosmic entities now known to exist he didn't deal with. Had he not defeated himself, who knows what would have taken him on . . .?

Dear Stellargrams,

I just put down QUASAR #18 and felt compelled to write, although this is my first letter to a comic, I feel as though I have been in touch with the people at QUASAR for awhile now.

Quasar is definitely one of the most accurate characters in Marvel Comics, or any other comic book company for that matter. He acts just like a real human being would if he/she received "super" powers. His feelings, occupation, relationships, and original powers all coincide well with each other. I feel Mark Gruenwald did an excellent job of that! But, with issue 18, I began to lose touch with Quasar.

First of all, the opening scene really freeaked me out. Quasar — a fictim of amnesia?!?! I began to fret, frantically searching for #17, looking for the cause of this problem. Nothing there! Had I missed an AVENGERS issue? No! There's no more AVENGERS SPOTLIGHT, and AVENGERS WEST COAST never even spoke of Quasar! What the —?! Not there, either. Gulp! MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS, MARVEL UNIVERSE Cards, FANTASTIC FOUR, and MARVEL AGE said nothing about it. That was all I could think of. Quasar wasn't key anywhere else. Hmmm . . .

Well, the amnesia was explained. But the answer was definitely not what I was looking for! The Unbeing and Origin! Say it ain't so! This flips the whole universe upside-down! Thor created by an alien disguised as a grandmother? Quasar transformed right in front of our eyes by the old artist? Even Eon was thought up by this lady? ARRGHH! Good segue into another QUASAR storyline, however. The Great Pawn sounds like Eon's long awaited nemesis. Could this mean the end of the QUASAR comic?

Brian Gottlock
Nanuet, NY 10954

Glad *somebody* thought so, Brian. First response to the new look was about 75% against, finally tempering as you people got to see it in action and let it grow on you to half of you for it, the other half against. And that's why we decided to change it *again* last issue to a cross between both uniforms, incorporating just the elements everyone seemed to agree they liked. Well, folks, what he's wearing now is *it* — no more costume ch-ch-changes!

Dear Marvel,

QUASAR #18 was the most original story set in the Marvel Universe that I have read in many a year. The creation of Unbeing and Origin is a major step, answering some questions and posing many others.

Mark recently asked what, if anything, the comics world will remember you for. Now on top of the solid storytelling in CAPTAIN AMERICA, we have an idea worthy of Stan, Jack and the others who founded the Marvel Universe. I look forward to the further development of this storyline. Congratulations, and thank you for pushing the borders of the Marvel Universe, and daring to go where no one's gone before.

Rock 'n' Roll —
Rol Hirst
Rushgrove Farm
Holt Head, Slaithwaite
Huddersfield, W. Yorks
HD7 5TY
England

Thanks, Rol. Our intent is to make this a series that makes you think. Of course, you're entitled not like what we make you think about! To wit . . .

MEET 15 MORE MARVEL REGISTERED ZOMBIES™

Michael Lohman, 20 Arlington, TX	Tom Hollifield, 14 Amarillo, TX	Josh Forker, 12 Plano, TX	Jason Hatfield, 14 Georgetown, TX	Robert Allen, 12 Plano, TX
Nate Shera, 13 Plano, TX	Barbara Lewandowsk Waco, TX	A. Thomas, 13 Dallas, TX	J. David Clarke, 20 Arlington, TX	Jed Lackritz, 12 San Antonio, TX
Brian Wilson, 26 Biloxi, MS	Jerod Hubbell, 14 Columbus, OH	Ken Burnside, 24 Flagstaff, AZ	Tom Sheffer, 22 Fairbanks, AK	Paul T. Hughes, 35 Ft. Worth, TX